(a) whether it is a fact that all sections of the Gujarat coastal highways have not been upgraded to National Highway; and

(b) if so, the time envisaged for this upgradation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The length of Castal Highway in Gujarat is 1729.02 Km. out of which 627.6 Km. is National Highway. The declaration of any road as a National Highway depends not only on the consideration that it runs along the coast but on several other considerations including traffic needs, *inter-se* priority on all India basis and availability of resources. At present emphasis is being given for development of roads already declared as National Highways.

NH-18 and NH-202 in Andhra Pradesh

2760. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made and spent on development and improvement of existing National Highway-18 and National Highway-202 in Andhra Pradesh during the current financial year 2007-08;

(b) the present status of these National Highways in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether Government proposes to sanction sufficient amount for improvement and development of the above NHs; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The allocation for the development of National Highways (NHs) is made as a whole for the State and not NH-wise. During 2007-08, an amount of Rs. 76.00 crore was allocated for the development of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh including NH-18 and 202. The entire allocation mentioned above has been utilized.

(b) NH-18 having a length of 360 km in Andhra Pradesh is presently having two-lane carriageway. Four-laning in about 6 km length within Kadapa town is in progress and another 193 km length from Kadapa to Kurnool has been identified for four-laning under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III. As regards NH-202 having a length of 306 km in Andhra Pradesh, stretch from km 0/0 to 30/0 (km 0/0 at Hyderabad) is four-lane, 192 km is two-lane and the remaining length is single lane/missing link. Further, a length of 30 km from km 30.0 to 60/0 (upto Yadgiri) has been identified for four-laning under NHDP Phase-III and about 7 km length within Warangal town is proposed for four-laning in Annual Plan 2008-09.

(c) and (d) Development of National Highways is a continuous process and improvement works are taken up based on the *inter se* priorities and overall availability of funds.

Major ports to be overhauled

2761. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the major ports are poised for massive overhaul including capacity

augmentation and upgradation during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period keeping in view that there would be spurt of cargo traffic over the next five years;

(b) if so, the concrete measures and steps Government is considering to take and the amount to be involved; and

(c) by what time the overhauling of major ports would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Under the Eleventh Five Year Plan, which covers the period from 2007-2012, the capacity of Major Ports is planned to be enhanced to 1016 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to cater to a projected traffic of 708 MTPA. Major Ports have identified projects covering the entire gamut of activities, namely, deepening of channels/berths, construction and reconstruction of berths/jetties, floating jetties, rail and road connectivity projects, procurement, upgradation and modernization of equipment and other demanding schemes in order to meet the capacity requirement. The Government has also put in place a scheme for private sector participation in Major Ports for handling bulk, break bulk and multipurpose and specialized cargo,warehousing and public storage facilities, dry docking and ship repair facilities. To make the project bankable, Government has also issued a new Model Concession Agreement (MCA). It takes into account, *inter alia,* investor's concerns, in addition, all the 12 Major Ports have formulated Port Business Plan, with a 20 years perspective as well as Action Plan for 7 years period with a view to transforming them into ports with world class facilities suited to the requirement of future economy of India. The total proposed outlay for the Eleventh Plan period for the Major Ports is Rs. 17551.24 crores of which the Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) component is Rs. 2056.98 crores. Private sector investment is anticipated to the tune of Rs. 36868.24 crores.

Upgradation of roads in Gujarat

2762. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that road connecting the Union Territories near Gujarat are not upgraded to National Highways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government intends to upgrade the Abu roads; and

(d) if so, the time by when these are likely to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (d) The declaration of more State Roads including the roads connecting the Union Territories near Gujarat and other State Roads as National Highways, at present, is not a priority for the Government. The existing National Highways system of about 66,754 km itself has deficiencies in many respects such as inadequate pavement crust, poor geometrics and drainage, weak and narrow bridges etc. and there is a need to concentrate on the development of existing NH network.

Manned space flight to moon

2763. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to launch a manned space flight to moon;